

Hint Powers To Be 'Goat'

Will the U.S.
Discredit Him?

BY JACK MABLEY

FRANCIS Powers, the pilot of the U-2 spy plane who is now in the hands of the Russians, may be accused by this country of selling out

Jack Mabley's Story

to the Russians, and de liberately land ing his plane in Russia for a bribe of over \$1 million.

This would be a deliberate attempt to discredit Powers to offset statements expected to be attributed to him by the Russians.

The basis for this speculation is a remarkable interview printed in a June 11 issue of a small, conservative news magazine, National Review.

Privately, the editors of the publication believe the story is a deliberate plant by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Conversation

At Cocktail Party

The publisher of the magazine, William A. Rusher, was at a Washington cocktail party the weekend of May 28. Also present was a U.S. intelligence officer, "a very reputable man, and not drunk."

The officer knew Rusher was a publisher. He said nothing to indicate he was speaking off the record.

HERE IS the reported conversation:

Officer: Powers? No, he wasn't. We're convinced he wasn't a double agent in the strict sense of the term.

Guest: What do you mean?

Officer: We feel sure he hasn't been working for the Soviet Union right along. But connection with that particular connection with that particular flight. I know Powers intimately. I've known him for

10 years. I feel sure he was not a double agent, but we think that, at the end, he went over voluntarily. But we had to take our chances, and we did.

We figured from the beginning of the U-2-209 flights that the odds were we'd be caught or blown after six months. Instead it went four years. We were pushing our luck.

Guest: But why would Powers defect?

Officer: Mmm. We figure they offered him a bribe—a million dollars or something like that. (We tried the same thing in Korea, you remember.)

He was probably in a bad emotional state, and he even must have thought he'd become a national Soviet hero.

Guest: Did he need the money, or was he just out for a capital gain?

Officer: (Laughing) No—you wouldn't think he'd need the money. We were paying him \$2,500 per month and a bonus per flight of \$30,000! I figure he must have averaged an income over the past two

U.S. Can Pinpoint Every Crossing

The officer continued that thanks to U-2, at this moment the United States can pinpoint every grade crossing in the Soviet Union.

He also said we have something to replace the U-2. He notes that "one of the things that makes us think Powers must have defected is that the U-2 cockpit can't be opened manually from the inside. The only way the pilot can jump out is by pushing the ejection button which also sets the trigger for blowing the plane up."

THE MAGAZINE speculates that when Powers is "unhuzzled" by the Kramlin, he will say U-2's were equipped to carry hydrogen bombs, and some U-2's were designed to gather information for possible sneak attack on the Soviet Union.